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MANY BIG BILLS STILL IN COMMITTEE

BILLS RELATING TO RAILROADS AND UNIFORM TEXT BOOKS NOT YET BROUGHT ON TO THE CALENDAR — BILLS THAT HAVE BEEN PASSED—MANY MORE BILLS THUS FAR THAN SAME TIME LAST SESSION.

Thus far in the session it has proved to be "A Bill Legislature." The Senate has had 223 bills, while in the House 259 have been introduced. This is 69 more for the House than at the same date last session, and 97 more for the Senate.



Senator Zim will try to get a Commissioner of Labor.

Among the House bills that have been passed is that by Mr. Rowe of Madison, requiring railway companies to furnish separate waiting rooms for white and negro passengers at depots.

Amendment to the General Statutes, relating to filing pleadings in duplicate, by Mr. Clarke of Jefferson.

To fix a penalty and other liabilities upon telegraph companies for negligence in delivery of messages, by Mr. Baggett of Escambia.

Prohibiting of rebates by common carriers or employees thereof, by Mr. Mathews of Marion.

Some of the bills passed by the Senate are—Joint Resolution proposing amendment to the Constitution, providing that only white males shall have the right to vote, by Senator Beard.

Amendment to the General Statutes, relative to filing of pleadings in duplicate, by Senator Massey.

Providing for the enumeration of agricultural, horticultural, live stock, manufacturing, industrial and other statistics by County Enumerators, by Senator Massey.

Authorizing Internal Improvement Trustees to construct a dam across Lake Hicpochee Canal.

Requiring express companies to post schedule of rates and weigh all articles, and providing a penalty for violation, by Senator Beard.

Amendment to the General Statutes, relating to ownership of internal revenue license as prima facie evidence of the sale of liquor, by Senator Willis.

To authorize Legislative committees to require persons appearing before such committees to disclose upon oath what interest such person or persons represent, authorizing the administration of an oath, and providing a penalty for false swearing in such cases.

Several important bills were introduced in the Senate the second day of the Legislative session, and have not yet been reported from committee. Among them was that providing for a geological survey, by Senator Crill.

The Committee on Railroads had several bills referred to it then, and have not yet reported.

One of these bills was by Senator Baker, authorizing the Railroad Commission to employ special counsel.

Others, by Senator Trammell, were: Relating to separate accommodation for white and negro passengers on railroads; authorizing the Railroad Commission to inspect physical conditions of railways and equipment, and to employ assistance therefor.

The same day Senator Hudson introduced a bill requiring railway companies to provide separate waiting rooms for white and negro passengers; also a bill relating to the powers and duties of the Railroad Commissioners with reference to the values and conditions of physical properties.

Other bills relating to railroads have been referred to this committee since that time, but only two have been reported—by Senator Beard, requiring express companies to post schedule of rate and weigh articles, etc., and which was passed two days after being reported; and another, requiring separation of white and negro passengers on street cars.

The members of this committee are Senator Henderson, Chairman; Senators Clark, Crill, Crane and West of the First.

The Committee on Education is slow about reporting, especially those measures concerning text book uniformity. The Crane bill was introduced April 3, the McCreary bill the same day, yet nothing was done with them until April 15, when they were brought out of committee for printing and then recommitted, and are still being considered.

Other educational bills are receiving slow, and perhaps careful consideration. At any rate the committee indicates no haste in reporting.

Members of this committee are Senator Henderson, Chairman; Senators Adams, Humphries, McCreary, Buckman.

The Judiciary Committee is also taking ample time to

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WILL HAVE TO WORK ON STREETS.

Will Every Male Citizen of Tallahassee—City Council Will Say How Long.

Three weeks of Legislative session has scooted into the past, leaving as a record seven acts which have become laws by signature of the Governor.

"Purely local" are six, while the seventh is a change in the number of members of a grand jury, making it flexible—not more than eighteen nor less than fifteen, allowing twelve to bring in a bill of indictment.

Two Leon County bills were in the lot. One that some residents of Tallahassee will take more or less interest in is that allowing the city to bid in the sum of \$75,000 for construction or purchase of water works plant.

The other, which sailed under the flag of "providing that the streets of Tallahassee be kept clean," will make every man in the town sit up and take notice. As a drastic and tyrannical measure it yields nothing in severity to the Draconian laws, that for ages have been cited as the finest specimens of harshness ever promulgated.

The first section of the bill provides that every male citizen of the city of Tallahassee shall have to work on the streets. That's all.

They'll have to work. How much or how little is not said. A week, a month, or a year and a day it might be that the resident of the city or the more than seven red hills would have to trot out with his broom, his hoe or his shovel to aid in the work of keeping the said city neat, clean and tidy.

That is the intent of the first section. The second section holds out a ray of hope, it provides that the City Council enact ordinances to carry out the provisions of "this act."

So on the City Council must be pressure be brought to bear to prevent undue labor being exacted.

Meanwhile it would be an excellent joke on the Legislature if the City Council would pass the ordinance in time to catch those who railroaded the "purely local bill."

The other acts signed by the Governor were the Pensacola charter amendment, validating a bond issue of Leesburg; validating a bond issue of Bradentown; Key West charter amendment.

NEED OF CALOOSAHATCHEE VALLEY.

Dam Across Lake Hicpochee Will Save Fertile Region From Damage by Floods—Bill Has Passed Senate.

By the action of the Senate, the inhabitants of the Caloosahatchee Valley are bright and it now remains with the House to assure the relief the valley seeks from flood.

The bill authorizes the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund to construct a low dam across Lake Hicpochee Canal, and making appropriation for the same.

The proposed dam will be built at or about the site where a former dam was located, but which was destroyed by unknown persons about five years ago.

Its purpose will be to hold back the waters of the lakes during periods of heavy rain so that the Caloosahatchee will not have to carry the load of the lakes as well as the flow from its own waters.

During heavy rains since the destruction of the dam, much damage has been done to property along the river, and conditions are becoming worse, because of the enlargement of the Lake Hicpochee Canal.

This canal, at the time of the abandonment of work by the Okeechobee Company, was forty feet wide, but at present its width is seventy or eighty feet, due to the washing away of its banks.

The volume of water in the Caloosahatchee is constantly increasing because of the enlargement of the canal, and in the dry season the river remains much higher than formerly.

It was always the intention of the Okeechobee Company to use this canal as a means of communication in the construction of canals leading south from Lake Okeechobee, and when these were completed, the canal leading into the Caloosahatchee was to be closed.

Stoppage of the work prevented this being done, and for protection citizens of Lee County, with assistance from the Internal Improvement Trustees, built the dam that was later destroyed.

Flood has followed flood since then, orange groves have been ruined, grazing lands damaged, truck farms wiped out, while property has depreciated in value.

Settlers, who have looked at the rich lands and then at the water marks on the trees, decided they would locate elsewhere, while original residents of the section began to fear that they, too, would have to leave.

Relief through action of the Legislature is the last resort of these people, and if that be denied then the situation becomes hopeless. The drainage operations would afford the improvement desired, but that is in the future, while immediate relief is necessary.

Navigation through Lake Hicpochee Canal would not be impeded by the construction of the dam, as a gate to it would be built through which vessels could pass.

Levees would be built at angles toward Lake Hicpochee, that in times of great rainfall would divert the water to the swamps southward and away from the river.

The bill for this dam passed the Senate with but one dissenting vote, and if the House can be impressed in like manner a fertile section of Florida, worth a vast sum of money, will be preserved for cultivation, and Senator Harris will have redeemed his pre-session promises.

IMPORTANT BILLS NOW ON CALENDAR

NINETY BILLS NOW ON SECOND READING IN THE HOUSE AND 23 IN THE SENATE; WITH 14 ON THIRD READING IN SENATE AND 15 IN HOUSE.

Monday's special order for the House is the "bucket shop" bill by Mr. Knight of Columbia. This is a measure having for its purpose the suppression of fictitious trading in stocks, bonds, cotton, grain, etc., but placing no restraint upon bona fide transactions that may be made by wire.



MR. KNIGHT

of Columbia, who proposes to clean out "bucket shops."

In such transactions to testify concerning their connections therewith; to provide that evidence given by any such witness shall not be used against him in any criminal proceeding. And to exempt from the operations of this act purchases and sales of commodities by manufacturers or merchants in the ordinary course of business, and to provide that regular commercial exchanges and other bona fide trade organizations may post market prices, and for other purposes.

The Calendar of the House now has a number of bills on second reading, and a number of bills on third reading.

Among the bills on second reading in the House is that providing for separate accommodations for white and negro passengers, and that of Mr. Reese of Escambia, requiring the separation of white and negro passengers on urban and suburban electric cars.

Other bills of note on third reading are "to fix a penalty and other liabilities" upon telegraph companies for refusal to receive a message tendered with the "usual charges for transmission," by Mr. Baggett of Escambia.

This bill was reported favorably, as was the bill by Mr. Reese of Escambia, "a bill to be entitled an act for the protection of labor unions against organizations seeking incorporation under the Laws of Florida, when such incorporation is for the purpose of interfering with or disrupting such labor unions, and to provide a method whereby such labor unions may protest against the granting of a charter under such proposed organization."

Among the bills on second reading in the House is that to provide for a monument at Chickamauga in memory of Florida soldiers; to provide indigent children with text books free of charge; to provide for the establishment and maintenance of schools of agriculture and mechanic arts in the respective Congressional Districts of the State.

To prohibit the sale or gift of cigarettes or cigarette material; relating to the powers and duties of the Railroad Commission, with reference to physical condition and values of railway property.

Requiring common carriers to provide separate ticket windows for white and negro passengers; to require express companies to post rate of schedule and weigh articles; prescribing the method of obtaining permits to sell liquors in certain cases; to prohibit the transportation of liquors into a county where the sale of liquor is forbidden; providing for the creation of Pinellas county.

To provide a penalty for procuring money or other things of value on a contract to perform service with intent to defraud; to fix the compensation of the State Auditor and Assistant Auditor; making the rate of passenger fare three cents a mile; separation of white and negro passengers on trains.

In all ninety bills and resolutions are on the House Calendar for second reading.

Two special orders are on the Calendar of the Senate for Monday, the bill of Senator Adams, relating to State supervision of county prisoners, and that of Senator Zim, creating a Commissioner of a Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics and assistant deputies.

Both bills have received favorable committee reports.

Among the bills of interest now on second reading in the Senate is that of Senator Adams, authorizing the establishment of a prison farm, on which shall be employed certain prisoners not leased. This bill was favorably reported.

The Palm Beach county bill, by Senator Hudson, is on second reading, without recommendation by committee.

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